



# Transportation Decision Making: Principles of Project Evaluation and Programming

By Kumares C. Sinha, Samuel Labi

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## Transportation Decision Making: Principles of Project Evaluation and Programming

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This pioneering text provides a holistic approach to decision making in transportation project development and programming, which can help transportation professionals to optimize their investment choices. The authors present a proven set of methodologies for evaluating transportation projects that ensures that all costs and impacts are taken into consideration.

The text's logical organization gets readers started with a solid foundation in basic principles and then progressively builds on that foundation. Topics covered include:

- Developing performance measures for evaluation, estimating travel demand, and costing transportation projects
- Performing an economic efficiency evaluation that accounts for such factors as travel time, safety, and vehicle operating costs
- Evaluating a project's impact on economic development and land use as well as its impact on society and culture
- Assessing a project's environmental impact, including air quality, noise, ecology, water resources, and aesthetics
- Evaluating alternative projects on the basis of multiple performance criteria
- Programming transportation investments so that resources can be optimally allocated to meet facility-specific and system-wide goals

Each chapter begins with basic definitions and concepts followed by a methodology for impact assessment. Relevant legislation is discussed and available software for performing evaluations is presented. At the end of each chapter, readers are provided resources for detailed investigation of particular topics. These include Internet sites and publications of international and domestic agencies and research institutions. The authors also provide a companion Web site that offers updates, data for analysis, and case histories of project evaluation and decision making.

Given that billions of dollars are spent each year on transportation systems in the United States alone, and that there is a need for thorough and rational evaluation and decision making for cost-effective system preservation and improvement,

this text should be on the desks of all transportation planners, engineers, and educators. With exercises in every chapter, this text is an ideal coursebook for the subject of transportation systems analysis and evaluation.

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#### Review

"Sinha and Labi compile a vast reservoir of knowledge and technique that transportation decision makers might use to identify and evaluate these diverse impacts as part of the decision making process." (*Journal of the American Planning Association*, February 2009)

""I am not aware of any other book covering such a huge variety of practically relevant and qualitative models." (*Zentralblatt MATH*, 2008)

"The book does justice to the richness of the broader topic of decision making, covering the specific areas you would expect and more. Overall, the book is an excellent resource...the book is well-written and organized." (*Journal of Transportation Engineering*; 12/07)

#### From the Back Cover

A guide to effective decision making written just for transportation professionals

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#### About the Author

**Kumares C. Sinha**, PhD, PE, Hon. M.ASCE, is Edgar B. and Hedwig M. Olson Distinguished Professor in the School of Civil Engineering at Purdue University. Dr. Sinha is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Transportation Engineering and a former president of the Transportation and Development Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

**Samuel Labi**, PhD, is an assistant professor in the School of Civil Engineering at Purdue University. He is currently a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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